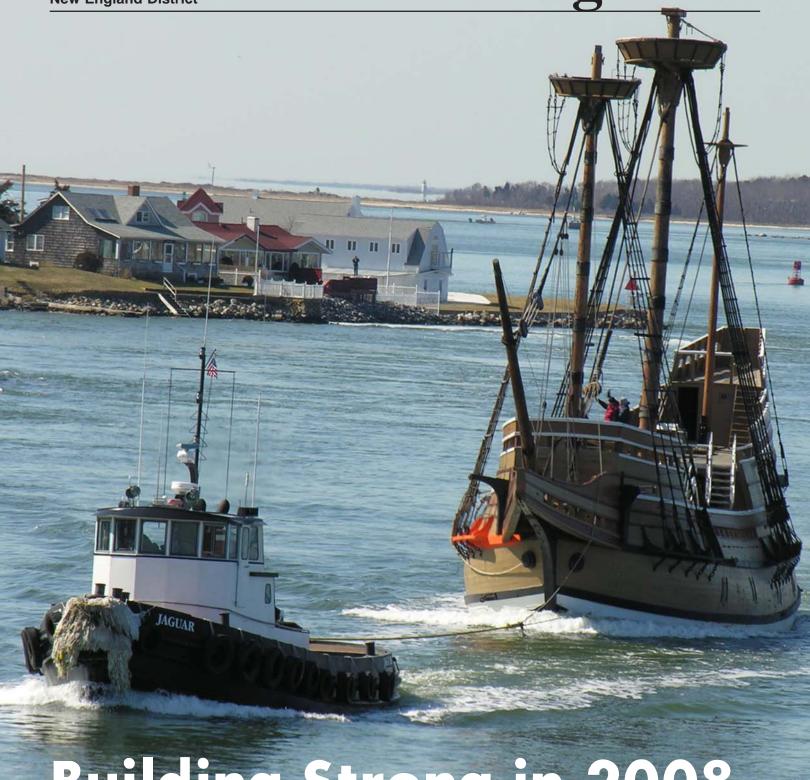


US Army Corps of Engineers New England District

Yankee Engineer



Building Strong in 2008

New England District Year in Review







Above: Earth Day at Barre Falls. Left: Inspecting the Zakim Bridge. Above: Take Your Daughters And Sons To Work Day.

A note from the Editor:

In a word -- Magnificent!

In retrospect, 2008 was another excellent year of the New England District team – a year focused on the successful completion of projects, the effective implementation of programs, and the timely delivery of cost-effective services and solutions. In a word – magnificent!

This 2008 Year in Review will highlight a small portion of the great work the New England District achieved over the last 12 months.

- Ann Marie R. Harvie, Editor Yankee Engineer

Cover photo: Every year, the MAYFLOWER II gets towed to D.N. Kelley & Son Shipyard in Fairhaven, Mass., to get the bottom painted and some paint touch up work done before the start of tourist season in Plymouth, Mass. In this March 11 picture the newly painted MAYFLOWER II is on her way back to Plymouth via Cape Cod Canal. (Photo by Kevin Burke)



The official party on stage at Faneuil Hall in Boston.



The Ranger Color Guard posts the colors.



Brig. Gen. Todd Semonite fastens one of many commendations Col. Curtis Thalken received during his retirement ceremony.

Transition in Leadership

Change is good. It keeps things fresh and allows new ideas to come forward. As every District does every few years, the New England District team bade farewell to one commander and welcomed another during a Change of Command Ceremony, June 27.

On that day under the roof of one of the most historical structures in the nation, Faneuil Hall in Boston, Col. Curtis Thalken relinquished command of the District to Col. Philip



Brig. Gen. Todd Semonite passes the Command Flag to Col. Philip Feir.



 $Mrs.\ Caroline\ Thalken\ receives\ an\ award\ from\ Brig.\ Gen.\ Todd\ Semonite.$

Thomas Feir. Col. Feir, the 34th Commander of the District, brings tremendous engineering and leadership experience with him, including his former command experience of the Corps of Engineers San Francisco District.

Moments after his surrender of command, Col. Thalken officially retired from active duty after 25 years of faithful service to the nation.

The New England District Team also said farewell to Deputy Commander Col. Andrew Nelson, who is continuing his military career as Deputy Garrison Commander for Transformation at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland.

Col. Nelson was replaced by Lt. Col. Stephen Lefebvre, who previously served the District as the engineering technical lead on projects at the Massachusetts Military Reservation.







Above Left: Town Pond Restoration Project. left: Border Patrol Station in Van Buren, Maine. Above: Inspecting the Ted Williams Tunnel as part of the Stem to Stern Safety Review.

Project Successes

New England District representatives and their partners celebrated the successful opening of a most unique Thermal Test Facility, March 7, at the Natick Soldier Research Development and Engineering Center in Natick, Mass. The facility will conduct research that will benefit not only U.S. Servicemen and women but also civilian workers in rescue operations.

District team members joined members of the 94th Regional Readiness Command and Westover Air Reserve Base at a groundbreaking ceremony in Chicopee, Mass., that marked the start of construction of the Westover Armed Forces Reserve Center, March 21. The contract, which is currently for \$34 million, was awarded Consigli Construction. Construction is ongoing.

New England District team members, state and local officials marked the completion of Town Pond Environmental Restoration Project with a ceremony on June 16 in Portsmouth, R.I.

The District partnered with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and others to restore 23 acres of salt pond and salt marsh habitat in the wildlife sanctuary of Town Pond.

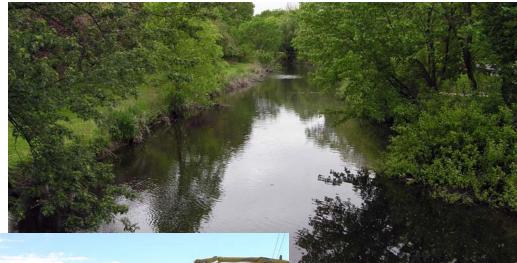
A New England District-based inspection team made up of individuals from all over the Corps of Engineers completed a nearly two-year assignment of providing engineering expertise to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Inspector General's Office for the Massachusetts Stem to Stern Safety Review.

The Corps Team inspected nearly all of the 50 miles of the new Metropolitan Highway System, known as the "Big Dig," which includes Route I-93, North and South, the Leonard P. Zakim Bunker Hill Memorial Bridge, all the tunnels and ramps and the I-90 Connector to Logan International Airport and to the North Shore including the Ted Williams Tunnel. Inspections took place in March into April and then again in June.

The Project Manager traveled to Washington, D.C., to brief the U.S. Department of Transportation Inspector General and his senior staff regarding the team's findings and recommendations in December. The OIG's final report is expected early in 2009.

New England District officials joined their congressional and Border Patrol partners in celebrating the completion of the third Border Patrol Station in Van Buren, Maine through the one-door-to-the-Corps concept.

The Architect-Engineer Resource Center at the Corps' Fort Worth District initially requested New England District provide a new 25-agent Border Patrol Station to replace the existing one. Changes during the design resulted in the construction of a 50-agent station.





Top; Mill Pond in Stamford, Conn. left; Shpack Landfill site in Norton/Attleboro, Mass.

Environmental & Dredging Program Successes

The District's Environmental Program and Support of the Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund Program continues to move forward and has seen great strides this year.

A final cap design for the 4.5-acre area Silresim Superfund Site in Lowell, Mass., was completed in September 2008. The District is also currently involved in designing a soil remediation project that will utilize electrical resistance heating to destroy contaminants in the underlying soil at the site.

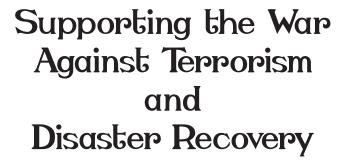
In 2008, we excavated 7,370 cubic yards of radiologically contaminated waste at the former Shpack Landfill site in Norton/Attleboro, Mass. We also shipped 6,713 cubic yards of processed waste to Energy Solutions in Utah. The current project totals are 22,433 cubic yards excavated and 12,626 cubic yards shipped off site.

New England District awarded a construction contract for the environmental restoration of Mill River and Mill Pond in Stamford, Conn. Currently the river's ecosystem is degraded by a 10-foot-higher concrete dam, sediment-laden impoundment concrete walls bordering the river, and invasive plants that impact riparian areas and intertidal marshes.

Our Navigation Program received \$42 million for O&M navigation. The funds included money to study projects, survey projects, investigate disposal options, prepare plans and specifications, and to dredge some projects. We did not spend all \$42 million. Out of the four dredging projects that we started, three were completed with the assistance of the government dredge CURRITUCK (Sesuit Harbor, Aunt Lydia's Cove, and Chatham Stage Harbor). We had funds for a few more but due to environmental restrictions we were unable to get them underway in 2008. We also got two projects advertised and awarded for completion in FY 2009. Boston Harbor was the fourth dredging project the District began in 2008. At the end of last year we awarded a contract to Greet Lakes Dredge & Dock for maintenance dredging of Boston Harbor. The dredging in Boston should be completed by January and the capping of the CAD cells is scheduled for June 2009.



Above: John Manning in Iraq. Right: NASA photo of Hurricane Ike.



New England District volunteers continue to serve their country by lending their expertise across the country and overseas. The following people have deployed or are still deployed overseas to support the War Against Terrorism in 2008:

Adam Burnett
Drew Clemens
Sheila Holt
John Manning
John Murner (more than one deployment)
Joe Moyer (more than one deployment)
Mike Tuttle

The New England District's National Water Team delivered millions of gallons of water to disaster victims during the 2008 Hurricane Season, most notably during Hurricane Ike and Hurricane Gustav. Three days after Hurricane Ike made landfall in September, more than five



million bottles of water from as far away as Florida were delivered to hurricane victims. Members of the National Water Team who participated in this year's hurricane season were:

John Asseng **Dale Berkness** George Claflin Tom Davidson JoAnn Dawber Brenda Faragi Rachel Fisher **David Goodrich** Jim Hachigian Mike Keegan Rick Kristoff **Gladys Leone** Sue MacDonald Jay Mackay **Jeff Mangum Brett Markure Duban Montova Darrell Moore Phil Morrison** Bill Mullen Steve Patchkofsky Reese Piper Rachael Raposa **David Schafer Heather Sullivan** Mike Tuttle Sheila Winston-Vincuilla



Dam tour at Buffumville's 50th anniversary.



Hop Brook Lake's Great Outdoors Day.

Events in the Field

Outreach and interpretive programs in the field continued to be incredibly successful in 2008. The District's "ambassadors" hold too many programs each year to mention all of them, but the following is a sampling of what was highlighted in 2008:

In the early months of 2008 Park Rangers at East Brimfield Lake, Mass., traveled to local schools to speak to thousands of local students about ice safety.

Birch Hill Dam in Mass., held an Arbor Day Event in April to support area wildlife by planting crab apple trees.

Thomaston Dam, East Brimfield Lake, Barre Falls and the Cape Cod Canal celebrated Earth Day in April with clean up events that resulted in 250 volunteers saving the federal government more than \$18,000 in labor. Blackwater Dam in New Hampshire held its annual slalom race in April. Paddlers of all ages participated in the event.

Hop Brook Lake in Connecticut drew a large crowd of adventurers from all across Connecticut and parts of New York for its "Great Outdoors Day" event in June. Visitors enjoyed geocaching, arts and crafts, disc golf, and a guided canoe ride during the event.



Japanese Knotweed Workshop at North Springfield Lake.



Arbor Day at Birch Hill Dam.

Buffumville Lake in Massachusetts held a commemoration ceremony in August honoring the 50th anniversary of the project. The event featured speakers, a time capsule, working dam model, cake, punch and tours of the dam.

A Japanese Knotweed workshop to inform the public on methods to control the invasive plant was held at North Springfield Lake in August. The event drew dozens of people.

Members of the Cape Cod Canal Field Office operated an interactive booth during the Boy Scouts of America's 2008 MassJam event in October. Thousands of Boy Scouts and accompanying adults participated in the Falmouth, Mass., event, many of whom stopped by the District booth to speak with Park Rangers.

Volunteers completed work on the Rouge Mountain Bike Trail at the Franklin Falls Recreation Area in New Hampshire. The trail, which was completed in October, is one of nine new mountain bike trails at the project.

West Hill Park and Dam, Westville Dam and East Brimfield Lake, Buffumville Lake and Hodges Village Dam, and Barre Falls Dam, all in Massachusetts celebrated volunteerism and environmental stewardship by hosting National Public Lands Day events throughout the months of September and October. Over 300 people participated in the events that improved facility properties and saved the federal government nearly \$23,000 in labor expenses.





Maine In-Lieu Fee Agreement signing.

Regulatory Division

2008 was a very busy year for the New England District's Regulatory Division; not only because of their day to day activities, but also for the number of high profile permit applications that have been worked on over the past year.

Cape Wind Associates, LLC submitted a revised permit application for work in waters of the United States in conjunction with a wind farm proposal in Nantucket Sound, Mass. As the Minerals Management Service proceeded with its development of an Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed project, the District's Regulatory Team closed its web page with its own EIS and other materials on the Wind Farm proposal that were developed prior to MMS taking over as lead federal agency of the environmental review.

The state of Maine Department of Environmental Protection, The Nature Conservancy and the District's Regulatory Team signed the Maine In-Lieu Fee Agreement on Jan. 31st.

The agreement will provide permit applicants an efficient and workable alternative of paying a fee to compensate for any lost wetland functions and values after all efforts have been made to avoid or minimize these impacts. The District also signed a similar In-lieu fee agreement with the New

to avoid or minimize these impacts. The District a similar In-lieu fee agreement with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Ser-

partment of Environmental Services. In addition, the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game, its Division of Marine Fisheries and Regulatory entered into an agreement to establish a program of fees in lieu of on-site mitigation for minor impact to Essential Fish Habitat in Massachusetts.

New England District team members, to include 12 Regula-

Breakdown of Regulatory Division Permit Actions

- Issued 3 Letters of Permission (LOPs)
- Issued 46 Standard Permits (SPs)
- Decided 490 were No Permit Required
- Finalized 86 Unauthorized actions
- Issued 229 Permit Modifications
- Issued 2,279 General Permits
- Issued 2 Programmatic General Permits
- Issued 11 Nationwide Permits



Vernal Pool workshop.

tory staff, participated in a vernal pool workshop on March 20. After a morning lecture, the group observed three local vernal pools in Lexington and Lincoln, Mass.

The Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released a new rule to clarify how to provide compensatory mitigation for unavoidable impacts to the nation's wetlands and streams, March 31st. The new rule will enable the agencies to promote greater consistency, predictability, and ecological success of mitigation projects under the Clean Water Act.

North Atlantic Division Commander, Brig, Gen. Todd Semonite, announced his decision to deny a permit to the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation due to public interest factors and the availability of less environmentally damaging alternatives. The application calls for creating a shoreline protection project using one-half million cubic yards of sand and gravel from an off shore site in Massachusetts Bay and placing it on 37 acres of Winthrop Beach, near Boston's Logan Airport. In September, the Chief of Engineers, Lt. Gen. Robert van Antwerp released a decision to remand the permit denial back to NAD after the applicant appealed the decision. NAD has reopened the administrative record and no decision has been made.

The Regulatory Team and the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act Office of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs announced that they would conduct a coordinated review of an Environmen-

tal Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report for the South Cost Rail Project proposed by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation and Public Works to determine its environmental impacts.

The agency is seeking a permit to discharge fill material in up to 14 acres of waters of the United States, to include wetlands, to establish a commuter rail service between Boston and New Bedford and Fall River, Mass. Public scoping meetings were held in December so that the public could voice comments and concerns regarding the EIS.

The Regulatory Team sought the public's input on the draft North Central and Northeast regional supplement to the 1987 wetland delineation manual. Regulatory was specifically seeking public input, including scientific information/data, on the proposed hydrology, soils, and vegetation indicators and data collection procedures in the draft document. Comments were taken until Sept. 15. Regulatory employees also bade farewell to their Division Chief, Christine Godfrey, who transferred to Washington, D.C., in October.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the Regulatory Team conducted joint public hearings on the Algonquin Gas Transmission, LCC proposed project in December. The applicant is seeking a permit from the Corps of Engineers to place fill material within wetlands and waterways in Massachusetts and Connecticut to expand an existing 1,100-mile-long natural gas transmission pipeline in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island and New Jersey.









Above from left: Take Your Daughters/Sons To Work Day. Linda Meyer as Abigail Adams during Women's History Month. Park Ranger Bradley Clark performs traditional dance during Native American/Alaskan Native Program. Left: Timothy Martin reenacts the "I Have A Dream" speech during the Black History Month celebration.

Special Emphasis Programs

The Equal Employment Opportunity Officer and its Special Emphasis Program Managers continued to educate and inform the District Team on the subject of cultural diversity in 2008.

EEO and the Black Employment Program hosted a riveting reenactment of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s, "I have a Dream" speech, Jan. 10, in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day. Timothy Martin, Secretary for the 66th Security Forces Squadron, portrayed the late Civil Rights Leader. The EEO and BEP also held an event celebrating Black History Month on Feb. 21. Professor John H. Bracey, Jr., of the University of Massachusetts, Amherst served as keynote speaker, whose presentation was in keeping with the theme, "Carter G. Woodson and the Origins of Multiculturalism."

Nearly 40 children gathered at the Concord Park headquarters to get an idea of what some of their parents and coworkers do for a living during the District's Annual Take Your Daughters/Sons To Work Day, April 25. Educational sessions included live woodland and marine mammals that Park Rangers encounter, an interactive watershed model that explained flood management and important water safety information. A presentation on acupuncture and Eastern medicine highlighted the 2008 Asian American/Pacific Islander Program's celebration, June 4. Christine Noonan, Lic. Ac., M.Ac, the Outreach Coordinator for the New England School of Acupuncture gave a demonstration on cupping and an educational look at Eastern medicine, past and present.

New England District employees went back in time to the mid-1700s in early America to get a glimpse into the life of Abigail Adams, First Lady of the United States and one of the first advocates of women's rights during the EEO/Federal Women's Program-sponsored Women's History event, Aug. 9. Performer Linda Meyer portrayed Adams during her one-woman act entitled, "Abigail Adams – Remember the Ladies."

EEO and the Special Emphasis Program Managers ended the year with a Native American/Alaskan Native Program that featured Park Ranger Brad Clark's presentation on the Native American Pow Wow, Nov. 19. Clark's presentation included a traditional Native American Dance Performance and a PowerPoint presentation.







Above: Members of the National Water Team give blood while deployed to Hurricane Gustav recovery. Janet Brayden and Col. Philip Feir load up toys for the Toys for Tots drive. Right: Warrior in Transition Sgt. Jeff Luca helps build a bird box.

Doing good work in the District

The New England District Team made helping others a priority during 2008. Early in the year, the District partnered with their neighbors at the Community Based Health Care Organization (CBHCO) of the U.S. Army and developed the Warriors in Transition Program that helps wounded Soldiers find meaningful and fulfilling work within their abilities as they seek medical treatment and convalesce locally with family and friends.

The EEO Officer teamed up with the Work Environment Committee to organize a collection for the "Cell Phones for Soldiers" program and collected 200 phones. For each phone donated to the program a Soldier serving overseas in the War Against Terrorism receives a prepaid one hour calling card to

talk to loved ones.

New England District's Cape Cod Canal Team kept boaters safe as they traveled through the waterway, assisting over 250 vessels in distress to include fighting a tug fire as the U.S. Coast Guard rescued the tug's crew.

The Team not only serves its country with the good work it performs, they also bleed for others. The Safety Office and the Federal Occupational Health Unit partnered with the American Red Cross and held two blood drives in 2008 (May 8 and November 21), collecting 58 pints of life saving blood. Members of the National Water Team also rolled up their sleeves and donated blood after working 12 hour days on the Hurricane Gustav recovery mission.

The New England District team also donated hardearned money to the charity of their choice during the Government-wide Combined Federal Campaign drive that took place in November.

The District team closed out its year of helping others with a record breaking Toy Drive that benefited less fortunate children in New England. About 300 toys were donated to the U.S. Marine Toys for Tots Program.



Atlas Tack Superfund Project.

District Excellence

Awards and milestones abound for the New England District team, both as a collective body and as individuals. The following are just some examples of the fine work our District team has achieved in 2008:

Before leaving for his assignment at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Lt. Col. Andrew Nelson was promoted to Colonel during a ceremony held at the District, Jan. 16.

Park Ranger Thomas Chamberland received the George E. Stone Award from the Massachusetts Tree Wardens and Foresters Association for his work as Tree Warden and Arborist, Jan. 9. Chamberland deployed as the District's arborist expert during the Corps of Engineers' Hurricane Katrina recovery effort.

Park Manager Jeff Mangum received the Superior Civilian Service Award for his outstanding service and contribution to the sign standards program, Jan. 16.

Craig Hysler, Construction Representative at the North Central Resident Office was named the North Atlantic Division Hard Hat of the Year. Hysler received the award for his outstanding performance, particularly for his work on the Border Patrol Station projects in Maine.

Marci Montrose, Natural Resource Specialist at Hop

Brook Lake, was named New England District's Interpreter of the Year and was the winner of the North Atlantic Division's Hiram M. Chittenden Award for Interpretive Excellence. Montrose received the awards in recognition of her outstanding contributions in the field of interpretation and environmental education.

Brig. Gen. Todd Semonite, North Atlantic Division Commander, presented the New England District Safety Team with the NAD Quarterly Safety Award in March. Among all of the accomplishments the District achieved during the award-winning quarter, the fact that the removal of the District from the Department of Labor's Office of Workers' Compensation Programs top 40 list was the highlighted success.

Park Ranger John Pribilla was named the USACE Stewardship Employee of the Year for his exceptional work in the field of Natural Resources Stewardship in a District or Field Office.

Retirees Francis Donovan, Robert Harrington, and Stephen Rubin were all recognized for their exemplary careers with the New England District and were inducted into the District's Distinguished Civilian Gallery during the Founder's Day award ceremony in August.

The Associated General Contractors of America and AON Construction Services Group awarded the New England District Atlas Tack Superfund Project the 2008 Build America Award in the new Environmental Project Category.



Brig. Gen. Todd Semonite presents NAD Safety Award.





John Pribilla

Marci Montrose

Craig Hysler

U.S. Customs and

New England District travelers had no delinquent payment on their credit cards for 24 consecutive months, one of the best records in the Corps of Engineers. The distinction came just before the District transition from the Bank of America Government Travel Card to the Citibank Travel Card.

The New England District publication, YANKEE ENGINEER, received three awards in the USACE Herbert Kassner Journalism Competition. The awards included a Gold Quill for best commentary. The YANKEE ENGINEER also received two APEX awards for publication excellence from Communication Concepts, Inc.

Other Awards include:

The Work Environment Committee's Employee of the Month

Roger Mathurin, Cape Cod Canal – January Yau Wing, Resource Management – February Cori Rose, Regulatory – March Jay Provenzano, Information Management (now ACE-IT)

- April

Mark Habel, Engineering/Planning – June
Janet Hall, Engineering/Planning – July
Kathy Malinowski, Engineering/Planning – August
Nick McGuire, Logistics – October
Ben Loyd, Engineering/Planning – November
Paulo DaSilva, Information Management – December
(No award was given in May)

The Work Environment Committee's Team of the Quarter

DeCA Meat Department Renovation Team – Deb Acone, Gary Cooper and Jim Morocco

Lewis and Clark Discovery School Outreach Team – Sally Rigione, Delia Vogel, Rick Kristoff, Viola Bramel and Joan Gardner

Big Dig Team – Dick Carlson, Sean Dolan, John Kedzierski, Chris Caisse, Randy Lecuyer, Gary Cooper and Scott Acone





Lynne Bleakney

Gerald Joyner

New Employees

New England District welcomed the following employees to the team in 2008:

Elandria Cameron, Contracting Eduardo Espanola, Construction/Operations Cynthia Hanna, Engineering/Planning Julie Karalis, Real Estate James Landry, Construction/Operations Janet Lane, Engineering/Planning Erika Mark, Engineering/Planning John Michiewicz, Construction/Operations Joshua Mulvey, Real Estate Paul Murphy, Construction/Operations Robert Ruggerio, Contracting Brad Schweitzer, Contracting Coral Siligato, Engineering/Planning Matthew Tessier, Engineering/Planning Alissa Turner, Contracting Quentin Walsh, Real Estate Irene Watts, Engineering/Planning Ching-Han Wong, Counsel

Retirements

Eleven New England District employees decided to join our retirement community. Their combined years of experience totaled 338 years of service to the nation.

Several employees retired in January. Mark Gabso, Engineering/Planning and Jim Law both retired with 30 years of service. Susan Robichaud, Information Management, retired with 27 years of service.

Gerald "Jerry" Joyner, Construction/Operations, retired

in February with nearly 32 years of service.

Two employees retired in March. Lynne Bleakney, Information Management, retired with 40 years of service and Stephen DiLorenzo, Regulatory, retired with 42 years of service.

Col. Curtis Thalken, Executive Office, retired in June with 25 years of service to the U.S. Army and the Corps of Engineers.

Scott Leonard, Construction/Operations, and Bob MacDonald, Engineering/Planning, both retired in August with 28 years of service. Jeannie Warnock, Engineering/Planning, also retired in August after 26 years of federal service.

Warren Wind, Construction/Operations, retired in October with 30 years of service.

Retiree Passings

As we wished those employees well in retirement, we also said farewell to some old friends.

James Hanabury, Engineering retiree, passed away Jan 22. Hanabury worked in Design Branch and served in the U.S. Navy during World War II.

Renzo P. "Mike" Michielutti, Engineering Retiree, passed away April 8. He worked in the Hydrology Branch and served in the Army Air Corps.

Milton F. Gouldthorpe, a core driller with the New England Division, passed away Aug. 23. He was also a World War II veteran with the U.S. Navy.

Jan Melowski, Construction/Operations retiree, passed away Sept. 26.

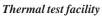
David Dupee, Engineering/Planning retiree, passed away Sept. 28. Dupee was also a decorated World War II veteran, having served as a combat infantry Soldier with the 10th Mountain Division.

Events Around The District



Tug "Canal Deluge" after Cape Cod Canal team extinguished the flames.







Health Fair at Concord Park.



Chili Fest



Brig. Gen. Todd Semonite presides over Town Meeting.



Face Painting at Founders Day.



New England District Park Rangers - Summer 2008.

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